have been connected with National Capita] by air;

(b) the names of the State Capitals which have not yet been connected; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to connect them by air?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) The following State Capitals have not yet been airlinked with Delhi;

(i) Kohima

(ii) Itanagar

(iii) Shillong

(iv) Gangtok

(c) Kohima, Gangtok and Itanagar do not have operational airfields. Shillong airport is not fit for operation by aircraft type available in the fleet of Indian Airlines. However, private operators are being encouraged to add more stations in their network including Shillong.

International airports at Cochin and Bangalore

1089. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to develop international airports at Cochin and Bangalore by private enterprise;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the various modes Government have adopted to privatise airports; details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that the growing and popular mode of privatisation is through the Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) agreement between Government and the private operator; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) The Government has given its 'No Objection' to Karnataka and Kerala Governments to construct airports at Devanahalli near Bangalore and Nedumbassery near Cochin respectively with private participation on Build Own Operate (BOO) basis.

(d) and (e) There is no preferred mode of private participation. Each case has to be viewed separately. BOT is 6ne of the methods adopted for attracting private investment.

Leasing of Satellite time to private channels

1090. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan has decided to lease satellite time to private channels;

(b) if so, how much satellite time is proposed to be so leased;

(c) the terms of leasing; and

(d) the names of private channels to whom such time has been so leased?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Unskilled Doctors treating cataract cases

1091. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item appearing in the Times of India of 11th October, 1996 under the caption "Cataract patients are falling victims to,unskilled doctors" wherein it has been stated that several

unskilled doctors are using a new eye surgery viz. Phacoemulsification, which harms the patients; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to check such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Phacoemulsification is the most modern technique for cataract extraction with Intraocular lens implantation. While this procedure is common in developed countries, it is new for India and can be followed by persons who are or were doing cataract operation by conventional methods. Like all new procedures, this also has its own learning curve. There are several facilities available in the country where this procedure is done as a routine and where Ophthalmologists can observe and gain experience in this procedure of phacoemulsification.

Concession extended to the accredited press persons for air journey

1092. SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any concession extended to the accredited press persons for air journey;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government will think of providing such concession in domestic routes?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such proposal at present, is under consideration.

दूरदर्शन और विदेशी टी०वी० नेटवर्कों द्वारा प्रसारित कार्यक्रमों के लिए दर्शकों की वरीयता का पता लगाना

1093. श्री अजीत जोगी: क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या विदेशी टी० वी० नेटवर्कों द्वारा प्रसारित कार्यक्रमों की तुलना में दूरदर्शन द्वारा प्रसारित कार्यक्रमों के लिए दर्शकों की वरीयता निर्धारित करने हेतु कोई अध्ययन कराया गया है या कराया जायेगा; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा और निष्कर्ष क्या है?

नागर विमानन मंत्री तथा सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (श्री सी०एम० इब्राहीम): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Multi-point initiative for comprehensive development of tourism

1094. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to bring out a multi-point initiative to comprehensively develop tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a tourism oriented training programme is also envisaged in the proposed plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to promote tourism in the Himalayan region and make it eco-friendly?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (d) The Department of Tourism has drawn a strategy paper for a comprehensive development of Tourism in the country. Human Resource Development in Tourism is a major component of the strategy.

(e) The Himalayan Tourism Advisory